



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OKLAHOMA MAN SENTENCED FOR BANK FRAUD

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Oklahoma man was sentenced in federal court today for a bank fraud that involved counterfeit checks drawn on the account of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.

Karl Edwin Smith, 48, of Pryor, Okla., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to two years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Smith** to pay \$40,000 in restitution, and to forfeit to the government his computer equipment, a 1994 Honda motorcycle and a \$30,000 cashier's check.

On March 12, 2004, **Smith** pleaded guilty to a bank fraud scheme that lasted from March 14, 2002, to May 23, 2002. **Smith**, a former employee at a Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company outlet in Kansas City, Mo., admitted that he created counterfeit Goodyear checks on a personal computer by scanning a genuine dividend check and using check printing software to create counterfeit checks. Smith then deposited the counterfeit checks into his account at Bank of America under the business name of Bear Distributing.

Smith created and deposited at least 17 counterfeit dividend checks, Graves said, each one in the amount of \$2,500, for a total of \$42,500. **Smith** withdrew \$30,000 from the Bear Distributing account to purchase a cashier's check on May 28, 2002.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Cowles. It was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service Financial Crimes Task Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow